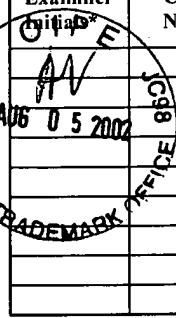
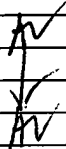
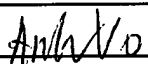


Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			<i>Complete if Known</i>		
			Application Number	10/068,008	
			Confirmation Number	6420	
			Filing Date	February 08, 2002	
			First Named Inventor	Hitotoshi KIMURA	
			Art Unit	2853 2861	
			Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q68459

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 4,067,020		1/3/1978	Arway
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

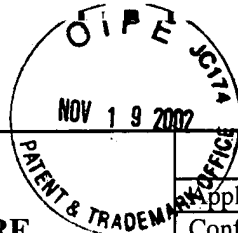
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		EP	0 927 638	A2	7/7/1999	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		EP	0 965 451	A2	12/22/1999	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	
		EP	1 033 252	A2	9/6/2000	Mutoh Industries Ltd.	
		EP	0 777 008	A1	6/4/1997	Levi Strauss & Co.,	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	03/03
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Complete if Known

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Sheet	1	of	1
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
[Handwritten initials]		US 4,067,020	B1	1/3/1978	Arway
		US 4,677,448	B1	6/30/1987	Mizusawa et al.
		US 6,168,268	B1	1/2/2001	Sugiyama
		US			
		US			
		US			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
[Handwritten initials]		EP	1 050 412	A2	11/8/2000	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		EP	0 894 631	A2	2/3/1999	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		EP	1 057 644	A2	12/6/2000	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	
		EP	0 916 502	A2	5/19/1999	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	
		EP	1 055 520	A1	11/29/2000	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		EP	0 777 008	A1	6/4/1997	Levi Strauss & Co.	
		EP	0 927 638	A2	7/7/1999	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		EP	0 965 451	A2	12/22/1999	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	
		EP	1 033 252	A2	9/6/2000	Mutoh Industries Ltd.	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
[Handwritten initials]		Japanese Abstract No. 05096741, dated 4/20/1993	Abstract
[Handwritten initials]		Japanese Abstract No. 58194563, dated 11/12/1983	Abstract

Examiner Signature	[Handwritten Signature]	Date Considered	03/03
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